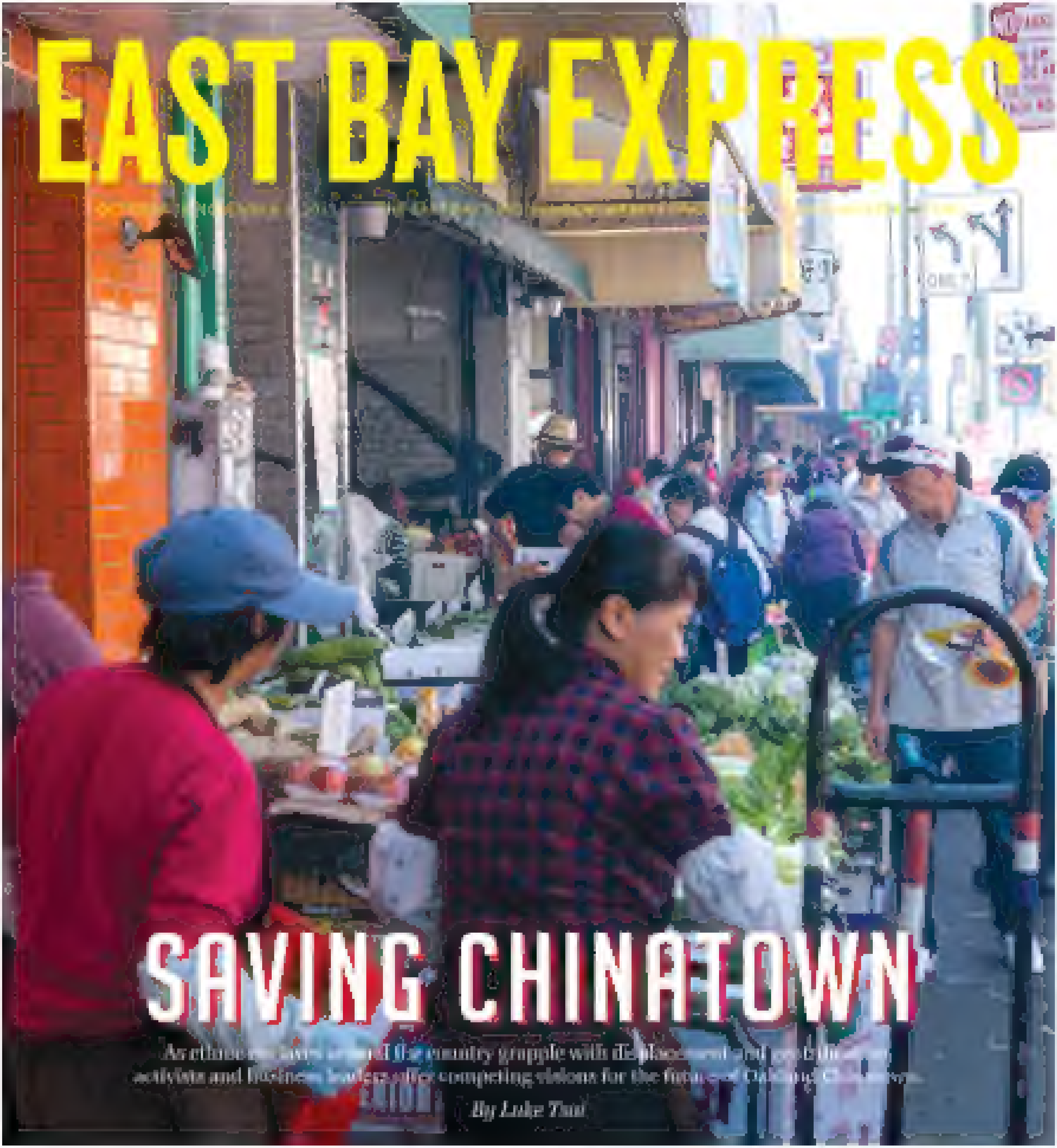
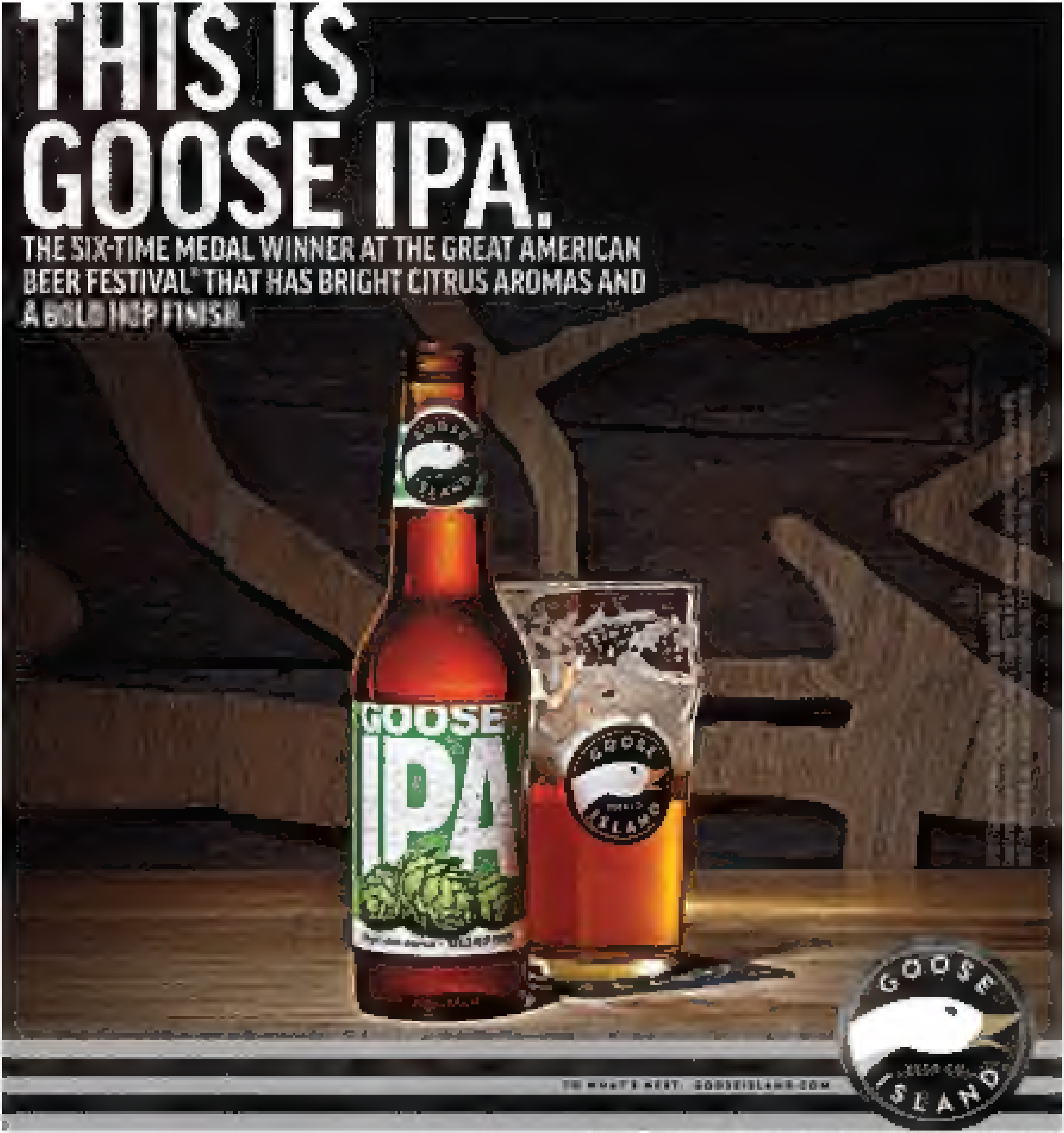

EAST BAY EXPRESS
SAVING CHINATOWN
By Luke Tsai



CONTENTS

Photo by Bert Johnson.

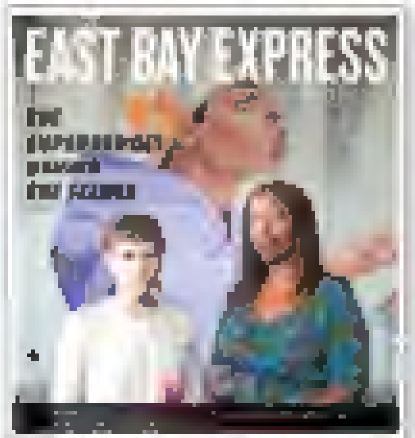
EAST BAY EXPRESS


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NEWS&OPINION



LETTERS

My Heart Breaks

The story of this beautiful project coming out of [Alameda Health Connection] Art Rooms as visualized by Antonio Harris and her amazing parents, co-creators, and artists, who run AHC, breaks my heart. I am at a loss for words in expressing the grief I feel for the family and friends of Antonio Ramos. Oakland is my home town and I will continue to pray for its healing and love for all!

Roberto [illegible], [illegible]

A Point of Clarification

I am disappointed that The Redwood suggested that, at times in the past, we "veer[ed] off in the Looney world of conspiracies and 9/11 Truther territory." I went back and reviewed the top 25 stories for 2003 to the present. There were three news stories found in the top 25 related to 9/11 out of 325 stories we published in that time period. This amounts to less than 1 percent of all the stories we ranked in the top 25 each year. This is hardly a "veering off" to the Looney world of conspiracies that Redwood claims.

The three 9/11 stories we did cite were more than adequately sourced, including *Toronto Star*, FBI records, and transcripts from the Japanese parliament. All three had been completely censored by the US corporate media. The topics included how the FBI had no evidence that Osama Bin Laden was involved in 9/11, coverage in Japanese news and television regarding 9/11 questions from official transcripts in the Japanese Parliament, and news from a Salt Lake City mainstream paper on how a university physicist was questioning the collapse of Building Seven.

The Project Censored mission is to research and report important news stories that the corporate media ignore or censor. In that regard, there are no forbidden topics, including 9/11, and we stand proudly on our record.

Peter Phillips, President Media Freedom Foundation/Project Censored, [illegible]

Newcomers, Please Volunteer

Thanks, Bob Gammon, for this. I wish all the folks who are coming in would take the energy to volunteer somewhere in our community. Every school, recreational center, arts nonprofit, or food bank that has been working for years to make Oakland better can use your help by donating money, or better yet, your time.

[illegible], Oakland

Diversity Is the Secret Sauce

Given the recent [illegible] Oaklanders' received from Ms. Rachel "There is no affordability crisis" Flynn, director of [Planning and Building], and Libby "Let's appointment an eviction specialist as [illegible] advocate" Schaaf, mayor of Oakland, it seems pretty clear that the folks in power are failing to prioritize and enact policies that would preserve Oakland's "secret sauce."

I would also like to suggest that the "sauce" is on [illegible] cultural capital that has been built up by and sustained by Oakland's economically and ethnically diverse, working-class residents and only [illegible] percent actual financial investment in Oakland by private and state entities. But, to hear our leaders tell it, it's the other way around. Thank you for voicing these concerns so eloquently. [illegible] [illegible] Maybe "hella secret" if you have to.

[illegible], Oakland

The Newcomers Are Not to Blame

This is what I love about our Liberal Bay Area. Writers. We celebrate and cherish diversity. But ... if they don't look like us, earn like us, like what we like, want what we want, then we don't welcome them here.

Oh, and you really think that people (young or old, white or not) really want to move into areas being "gentrified" if they are wealthy and have lots of disposable income? Really? It is just people looking for housing that is affordable to them. They just happen to be able to afford more. Shame on them.

We would not want them here. They are different than us. We are too busy promoting diversity. The East Bay is liberal and conservatives try to maintain the status quo lest we had better not let anything change around here.

Geez, listen to yourself.

Michael [illegible], Oakland

What's Wrong with the Deck?

[illegible]

The Whole Thing Should Be a Park

[illegible]

Miss You, Nanos

[illegible]

Scrumptious

[illegible]

Clearer Info, Please

[illegible]

The 'Curtain-Twitchers'

[illegible]

This Is Sensationalism

[illegible]

We Need to Take Responsibility

[illegible]

used to going into denial about racism, which is fed to us with our mothers' milk. We don't realize that our pretending harms people of color. We don't want to take responsibility for our actions. But we know the truth deep inside. We feel guilt and shame, especially if we consider ourselves liberal or progressive. Life is much better for everyone when we white people work on our racism. It is freeing to let go of fear and prejudice. We need to end white supremacy before the next generation is poisoned and more people of color are harmed. I recommend the work of Tim Wise.

Holly Harwood, Oakland

Thanks!

Terrific article! At this juncture, when police are being called on drummers and church choirs, we need to increase the dialogue and understand the effect on others when we call police due to our own biases. I know some will not agree with this perspective, but I appreciate hearing voices from Oaklanders of color on racial profiling, feeling their celebrations are not welcome at Lake Merritt, and other issues that are currently being raised.

Roger Wolman, Oakland

Get to Know Your Neighbors

It would be great if people could have a National Night Out block party with Oakland police and the neighbors getting to know each other, their vehicles, and their interests. By knowing neighbors, helping each other, and watching out for each other the suspicious activity on the block would hopefully be by others who do not live or travel the block just to get to somewhere else.

People do not always trust the people next door if they do not take the time to get to know them.

Grace Martin, Richmond

You Missed the Big Picture

Oakland residents need to be aware of suspicious activity because burglaries, robberies, and other street crimes have [illegible] major [illegible]. The article tries to portray awareness as racism, but it has no data, no proof, only anecdotes. I'm on Nextdoor, and I could give you stories about white people reported as suspicious. So what?

Suspicious does not mean guilty. It does not mean a crime has occurred. Courtroom rules of evidence do not apply. Suspicious simply means that a situation warrants further attention. Unfortunately, there are all too many of those in Oakland.

Maybe the next article could report crimes deterred because alert neighbors observed, called OPD, the dispatcher made a professional evaluation, and police arrived and caught a burglar in the act. Those events, too, have been reported on Nextdoor.

Charlie Pine, Oakland

[illegible]

You Rock!

Great work, keep up the sleuthing!

[illegible], Oakland

BondGraham Is Awesome

Again, great investigative reporting work here. You're to be commended. This project must be stopped. Coal is a killer — a dead-end energy source. Isn't it enough that we are trucking oil tanker cars rumbling right through our precious 4th Street boutique 'hood and downtown Oakland? And again, when is this [Phil] Tagami character going to be thoroughly investigated and thrown in jail? Didn't he garner enough from the Fox Theater rehab debacle, and now this?

[illegible], Oakland

Umm, Ms. DA?

Time to thoroughly investigate the attorneys and coal companies. Where is the district attorney, asleep?

[illegible], Berkeley

[illegible]

Classic Oakland

This is classic City of Oakland staff incompetence. Why do people infer that there is no transportation planning expertise in City Hall until Mayor Libby Schaaf's new department is established? That is not true. There is a legion of well-paid transportation engineers working every day in the Public Works Department. They are responsible for technical review and coordination of citywide transportation-related issues.

The problem is that they have no leadership and nobody willing to make tough decisions. They are especially averse to and incapable of making an unpopular decision that they will have to defend publicly or across the plaza in City Hall. For that group, the path of least resistance is always the way to go. What do you expect when the Public Works director is not a civil engineer, but a political appointee from a past regime?

In this case, clearly the benefits of this AC Transit step to the community as a whole, especially at the loss of [illegible], seem to outweigh the concerns of a single business along the corridor. However, when that owner is politically connected, it takes a professional staff with the balls to say no and the endorsement in City Hall that respects and supports that expertise. That kind of endorsement does not exist and has not existed in the City of Oakland for years.

Gary Patton, former deputy director of Planning and Zoning for the City of Oakland, Pleasanton

Corrections

Our October 21 feature, "Damming California's Future," misspelled Tully [illegible] Wilkerson. It also mistakenly stated that the Westlands Water District has a contract to receive water from the State Water Project. Westlands is actually a contractor of the federally operated Central Valley Project. ■


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OPINION

Our Fair Share

Oakland workers and residents should have a fair share of the "sharing economy."

By Jennifer Lin

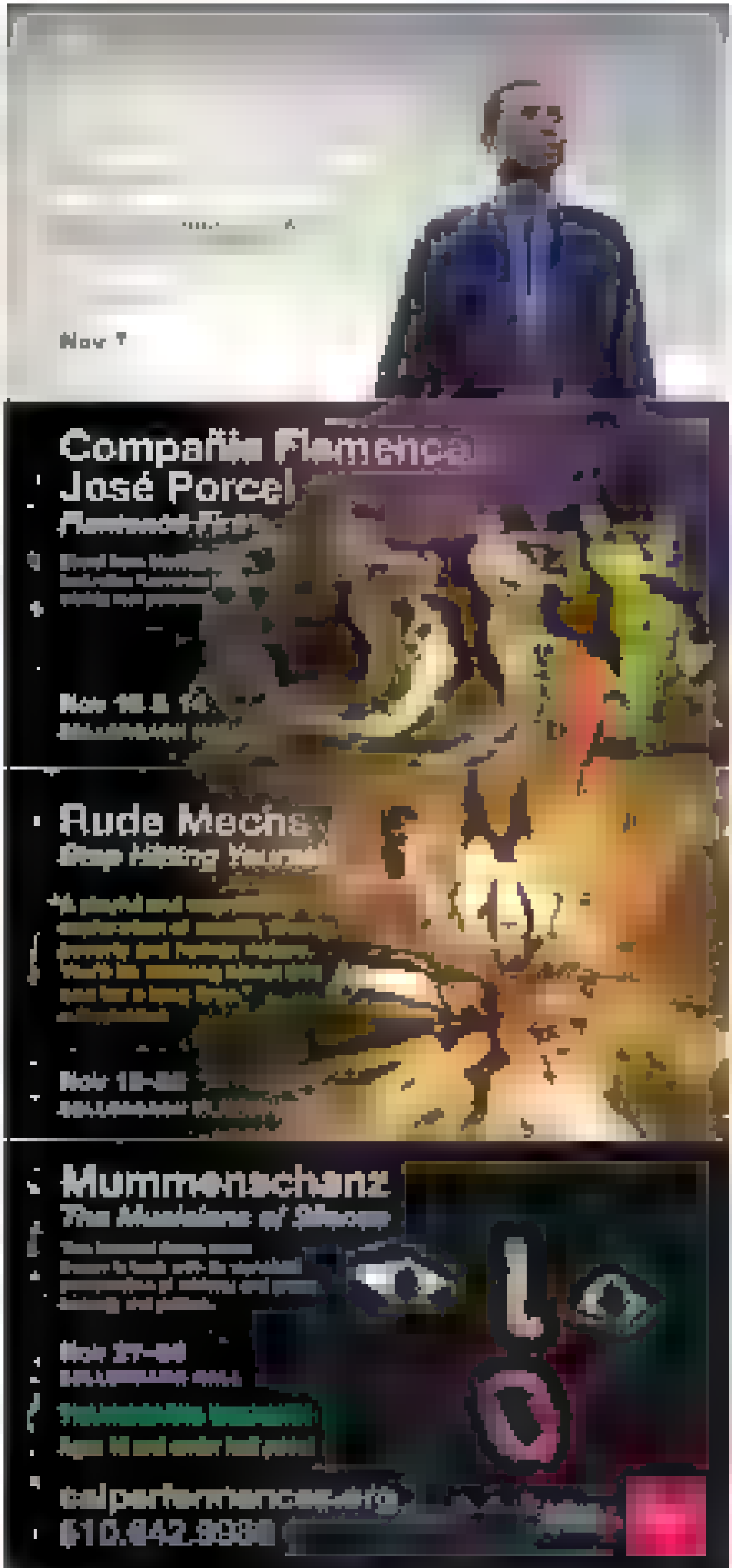
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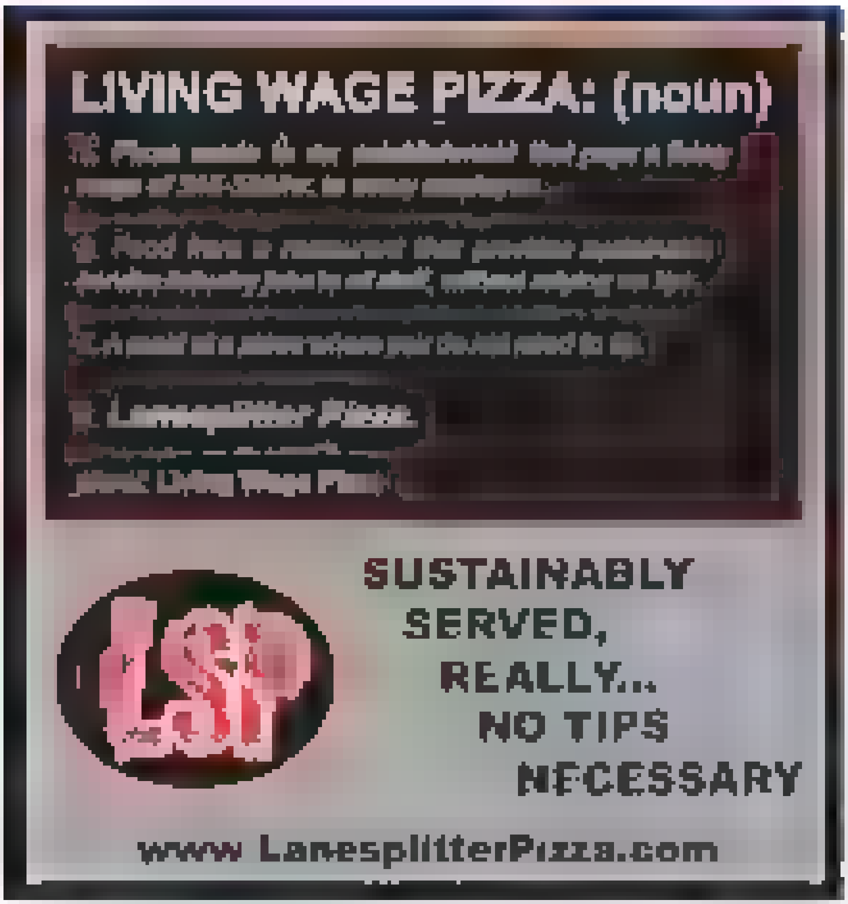
Staircases to the Past

Originally built to help Key System commuters avoid trekking up and down narrow winding streets, the East Bay's numerous secret staircases are experiencing renewed popularity







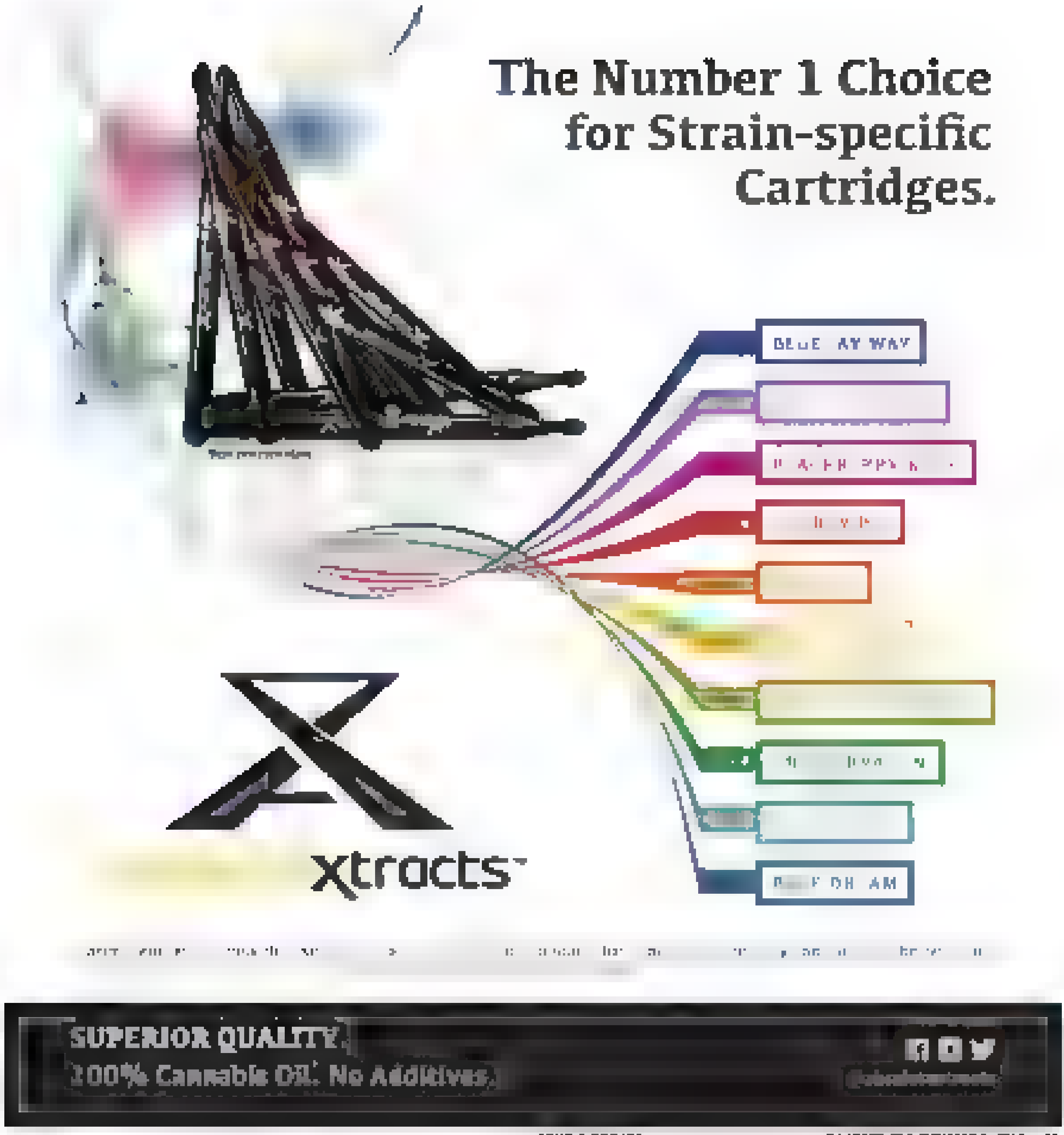




Oakland's Sweeping Plan for Parking

The mayor's office wants to implement a progressive parking strategy in the city's commercial districts — and if successful, it could reduce greenhouse gas emissions and boost businesses.

By Sam Levin


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Reflection



Oakland Struggles to Hold Banks Accountable

When the city council awarded a lucrative contract to JP Morgan Chase, it required the bank to hand over data on its treatment of low-income residents. But that requirement never made it into the actual contract.

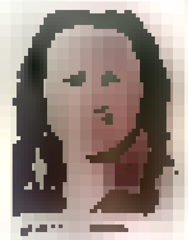
By Darwin BondGraham

Back to the Future?









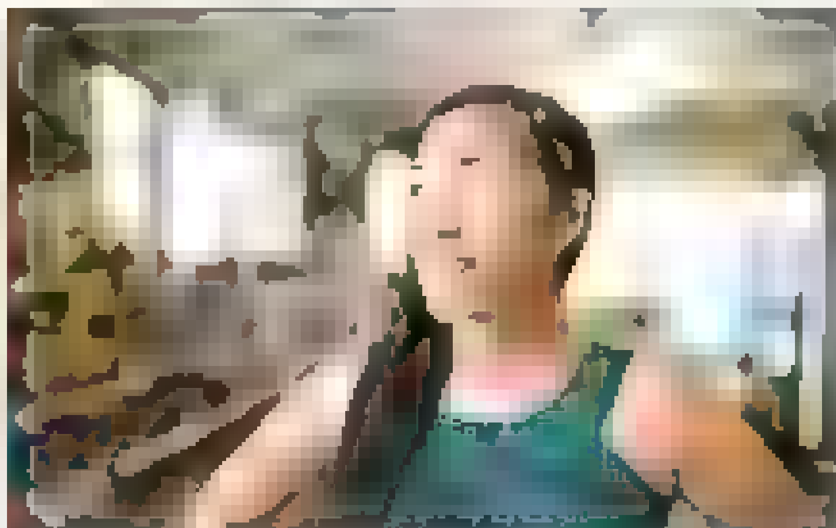
Saving Chinatown

As ethnic enclaves around the country grapple with displacement and gentrification, activists and business leaders offer competing visions for the future of Oakland Chinatown.

By Luke Tsai

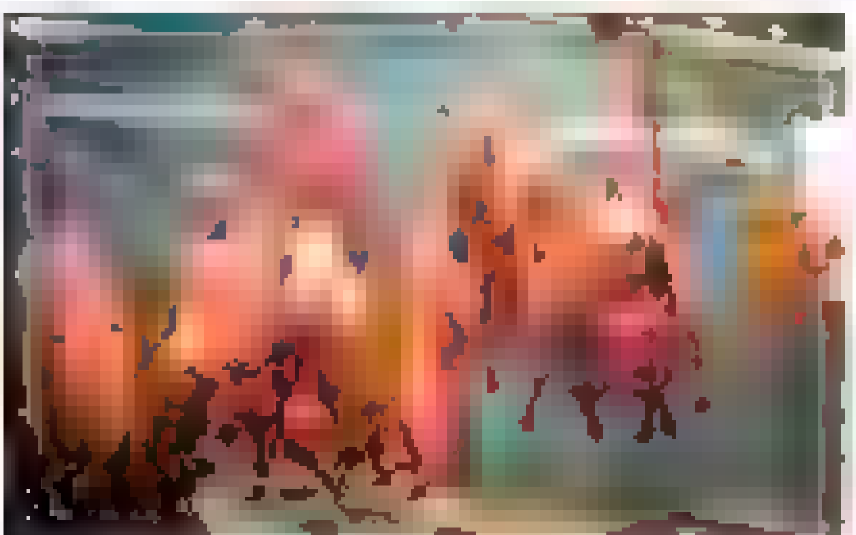



rare bird





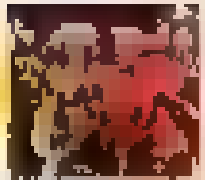




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EAST BAY EXPRESS To advertise call [illegible]

Berkeley Playhouse



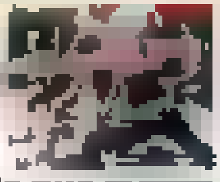
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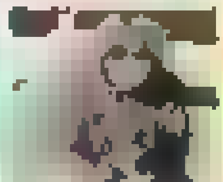
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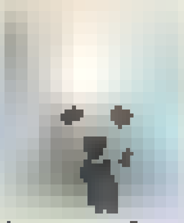
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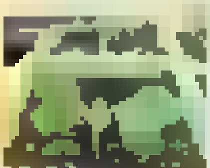


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Berkeley Public School [illegible] Cooking Program



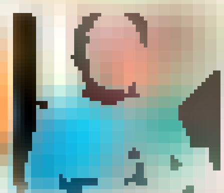
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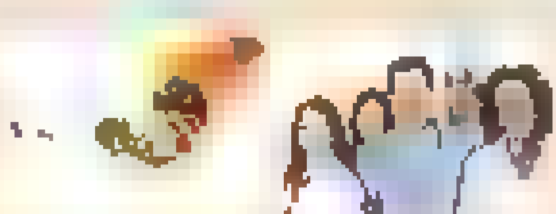
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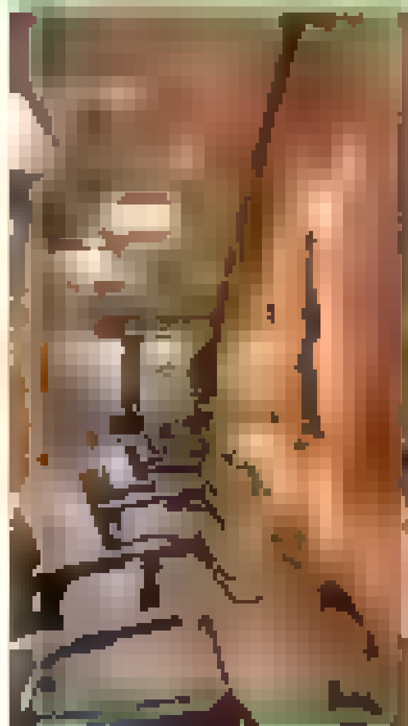






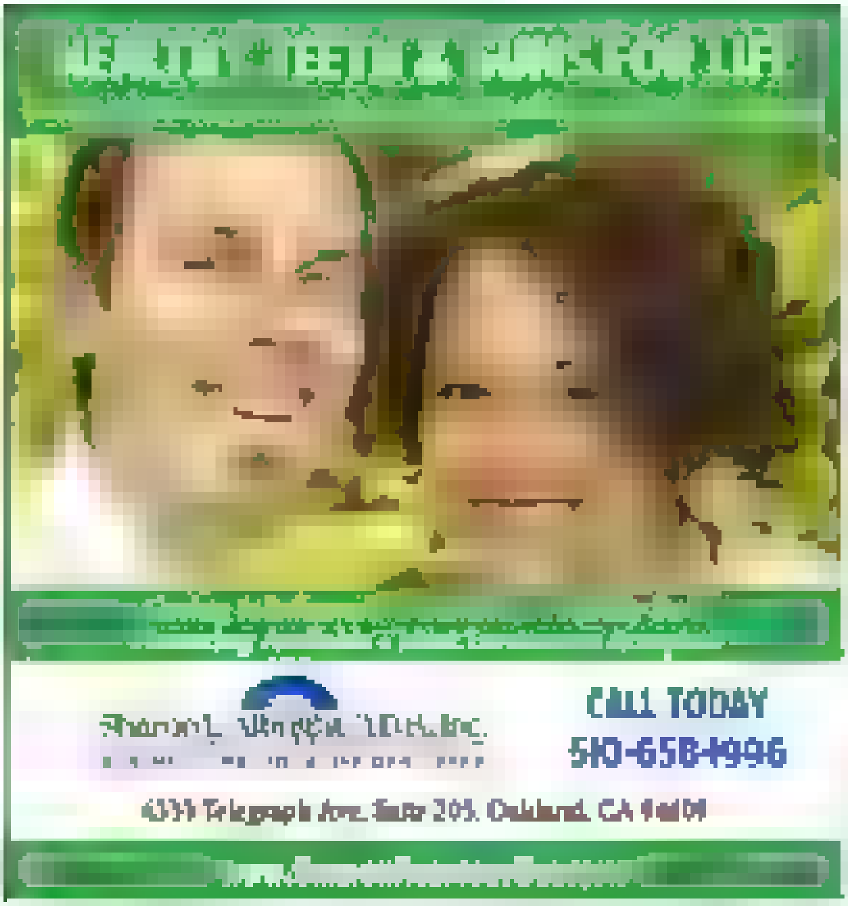








What the drastic changes occuring in other Chinatowns across the country make clear is that the forces of gentrification and displacement are a reality that can't be ignored.


CALL TODAY
510-658-4996









In Defense of Fun

A new gallery in downtown Oakland has a mission to appreciate all art — and have a good time doing it.

By Sarah Burke

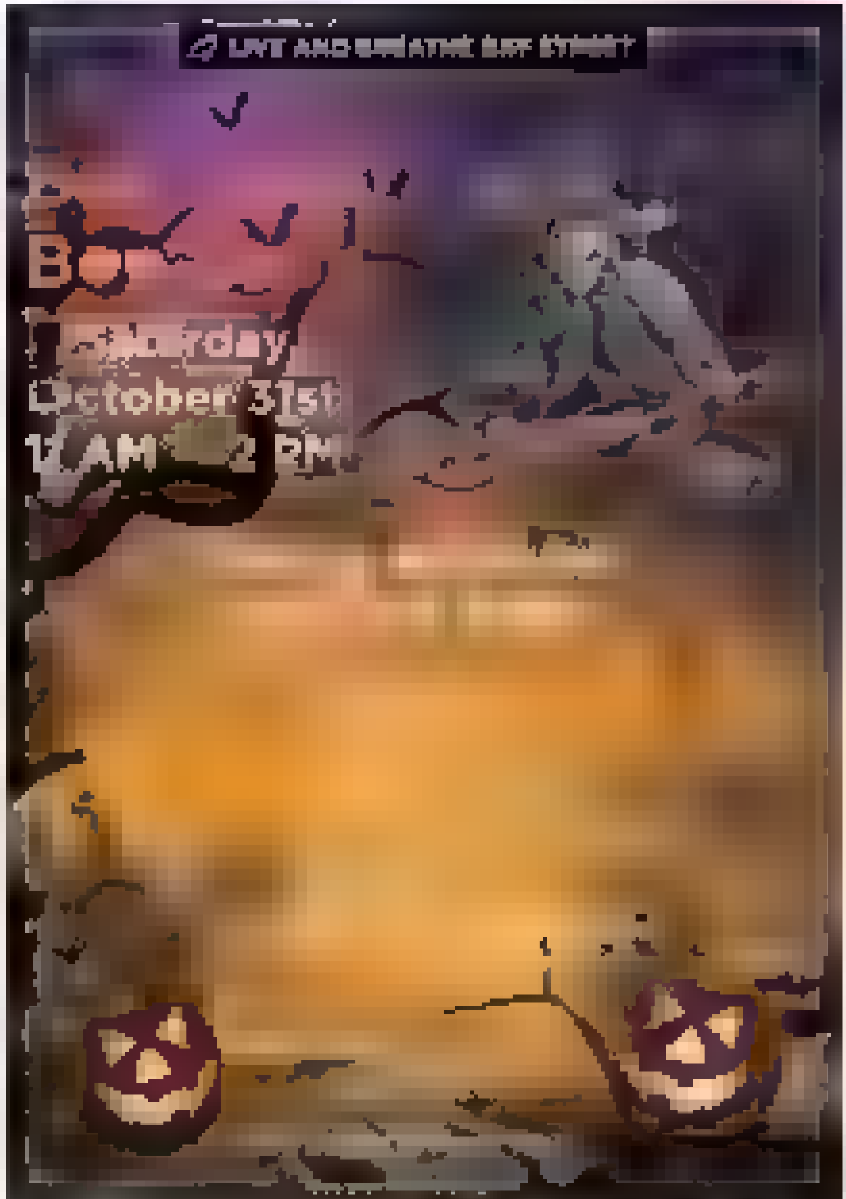








Berkeley Rep



October 31st



Enter the Valley

Shalo P's bewildering solo show at Krowswork Gallery, Valley ...



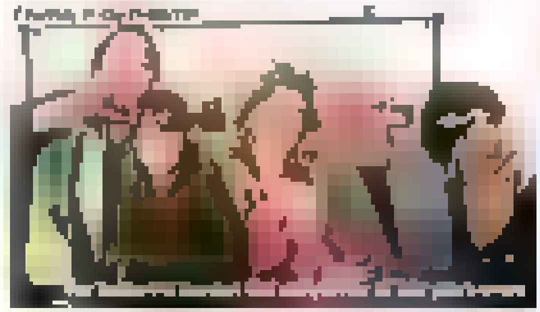
PICKS











Blood Ties

By Gillian Edevane

[illegible]



[illegible]

Show Details

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EAST BAY EXPRESS

"Mendocino Fire" by Elizabeth Tallent





House of Noodles

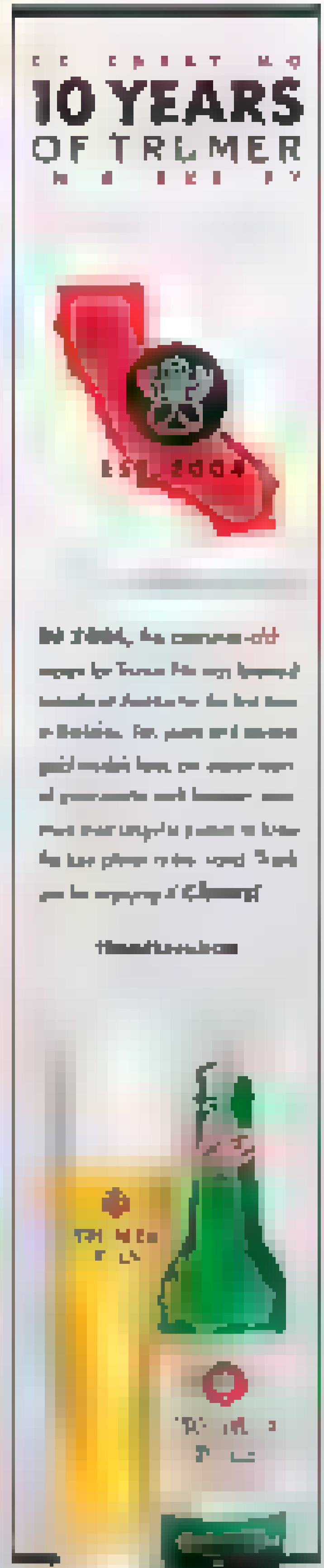
Noodles Fresh serves a "greatest hits" of regional Chinese noodle dishes, all made palatable for the Western diner

By Luke Tsai

Noodles Fresh

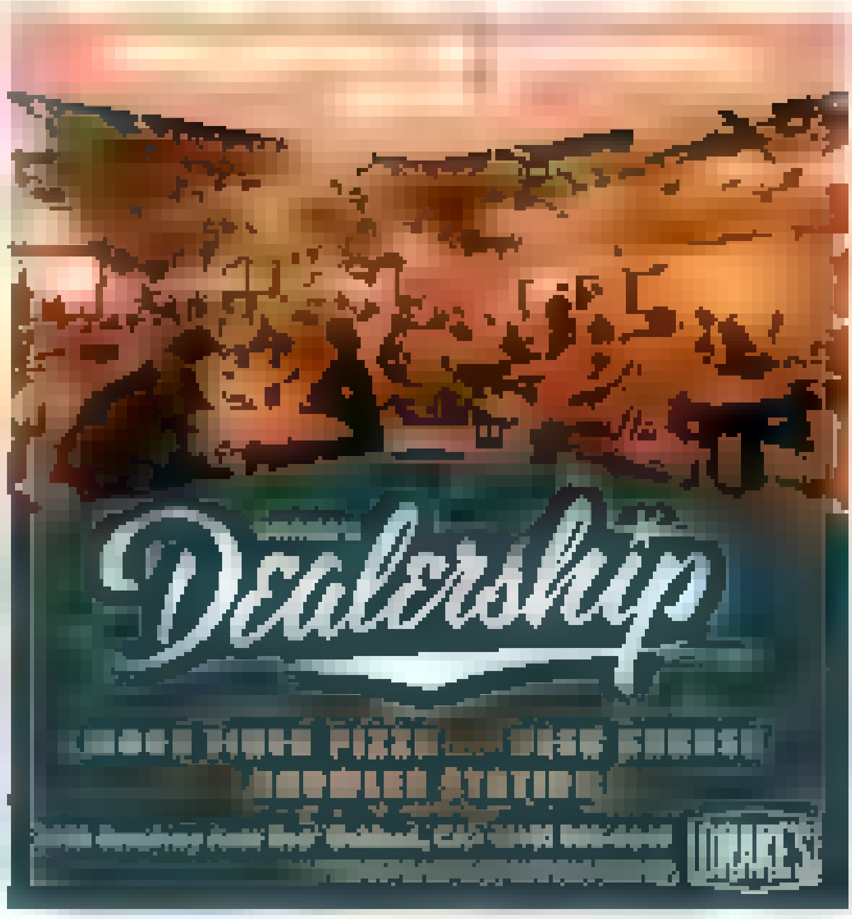
Sample Menu








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NATIONAL SEAFOOD MONTH
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Slurp City

Where to eat Chinese noodles in the East Bay

By Luke Tsai





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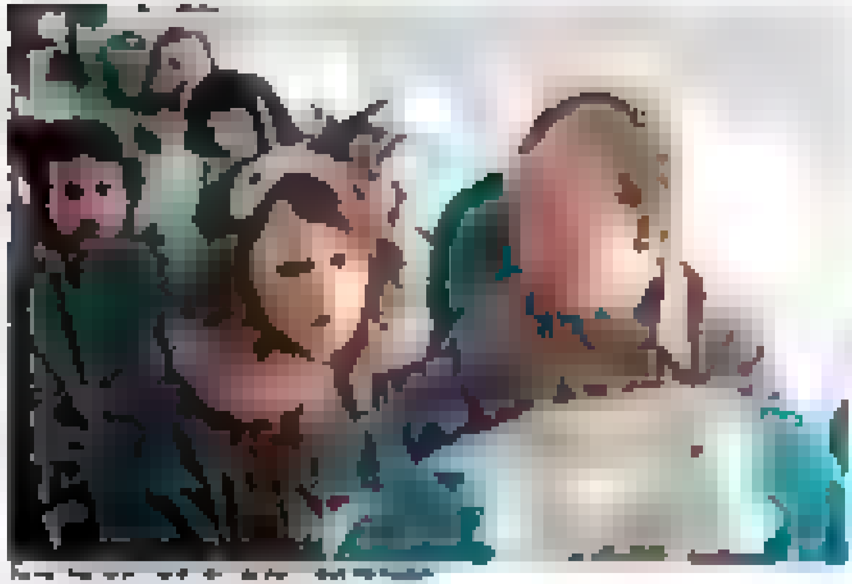



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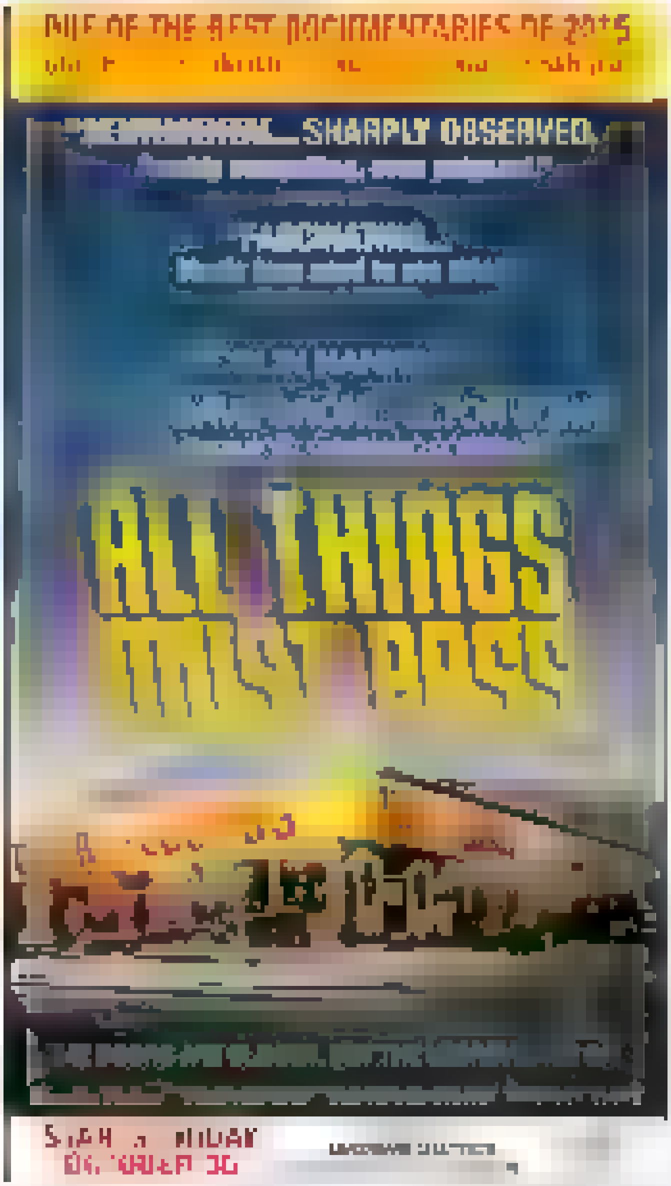




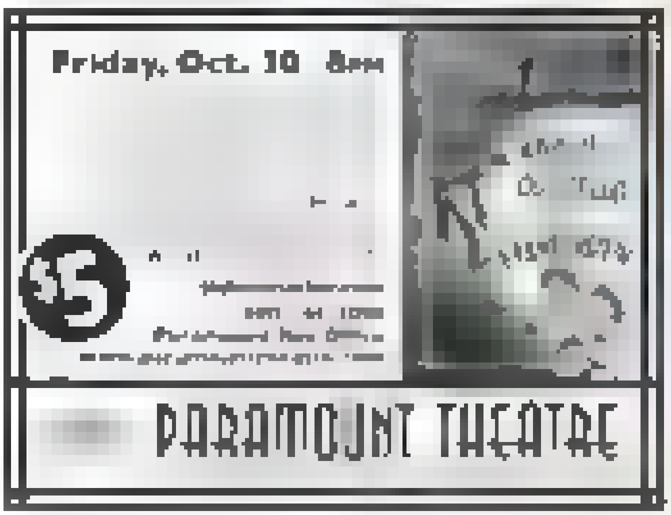
Sordid Realities



Showtimes Online


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SHARPLY OBSERVED
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CATE BLANCHETT
ROBERT REDFORD
Critics Pick
Truth



Friday, Oct. 30
PARAMOUNT THEATRE



NOTHING TASTES BETTER THAN A COMEBACK
SMART SEXY FUN!
A SUPERB CAST!
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$5 TUESDAYS

SUPER BARGAIN DAY

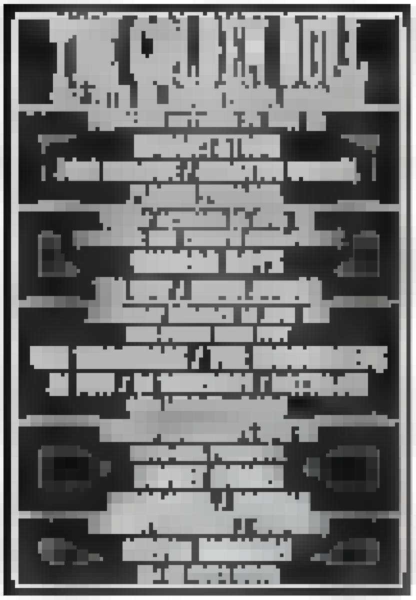
FREE POPCORN ON WEDNESDAYS

SCENE

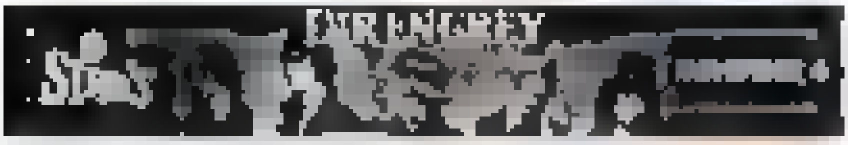
ONE-NIGHT STANDS

Hi Scores Turns Up Le Heat











Healing Songs

Oakland harpist and singer-songwriter María José Montijo makes dreamy, experimental folk music inspired by Chinese medicine and Latin American resistance.

By Nastia Voynovskaya



Show Details


Black Claw
Presents the
Bay Area
Convention
Tattoo
Arts
October 30th, 31st and November 1st


EBX
oakal
HECHO EN


FOX
OAKLAND
PRIMUS
DECEMBER 31st
HOT CHIP
KORN
GREENSKY

THURSDAY 29

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Experimental & Avant Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

FRIDAY 30

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Heartbreak Halloween



Murder Ballads Bash

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

SATURDAY 31

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

SUNDAY 1

All Ages

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Gospel & Vocal

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Blues, Folk, & Country

Experimental & Avant Garde

Classical & Opera

MONDAY 2

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

TUESDAY 3

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Experimental & Avant Garde

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

WEDNESDAY 4

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Experimental & Avant Garde

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop



THURSDAY 29

FRIDAY 30

SATURDAY 31

SUNDAY 1

MONDAY 2

TUESDAY 3

WEDNESDAY 4

Ghoulish Gala

Best Served Cold

When your husband is HIV positive and cheating, you don't have to send him to jail.

By Dan Savage

I am a straight, married, [illegible]-year-old woman. My husband and I have two children. I have been with my husband for twelve years, married for six. Three years after we were married, we found out that he was HIV positive. We had both had multiple tests throughout our relationship (because of pregnancies and the process we went through to get pregnant). Both of us were negative then. [illegible] he was infected as a result of him cheating. We worked through that and remained married. Recently, I saw a message from a woman saying, "Call me or I am calling your wife." I identified myself, and she and I spoke briefly. I asked how long they were having a relationship, and she told me since January. I did not mention his status. I confronted him, and he claims she is a crazy stalker. He says there was a brief flirtation but then she became clingy and "crazy," and he did not know how to tell me without compromising our relationship. He blocked her calls and e-mails. He is undetectable, and we use condoms. He has never tried to not use a condom when we have had sex. In the state where we live, a positive person who does not inform a person of their status before having sex faces up to five years in prison. I have brought this to his attention. He is sticking to his story that he did not have sex with her. I do not believe him. We met with a therapist last week, only for a placement consultation. We did not mention his status. This is my biggest issue: I don't think we can work through our problems without honesty. I need him to come clean and admit to me — and our therapist — that he had sex with this woman. If he does, I believe the therapist will be legally obligated to report his behavior to the police. I am preparing myself for divorce, something he doesn't know, and while I don't want to have him arrested, I feel we need the therapy in order to respectfully co-parent — and lying to a therapist or avoiding the full truth seems crazy.

Seeking Truth About This Unpleasant Situation

"Where to start?" asked Peter Staley, the legendary AIDS activist, founding director of the Treatment Action Group, and longtime board member of the American Foundation for AIDS Research. "I'll leave the relationship issues to you, Dan, but isn't the level of distrust here the most toxic part of the story?"

The level of distrust does strike me as toxic — but seeing as your husband cheated, STATUS, and lied for the first time, your distrust is understandable. What I don't understand is your desire to see your husband sent to prison. You don't want honesty (he doesn't seem capable of that), you don't want to "work through your problems" (your marriage is over), you just want your soon-to-be ex-husband to rot in jail.

But since you don't want to call the police yourself — you don't want your fingerprints on this — you want to con your husband (with my help) into telling "the full truth" to a therapist who will have to call the police.

"STATUS really does appear to be plotting her revenge here," said Staley. "Divorce, checking her state's HIV criminalization laws, tricking her husband into making a confession that would land him in prison."

And the instruments of your revenge — laws that require HIV-positive people to disclose to their sex partners — are unjust and unworkable.

"I stand with every public-health organization, including UNAIDS and the World Health Organization, in abhorring HIV criminalization laws like the one STATUS cites," said Staley. "We already have laws on the books that can adequately deal with someone who knowingly and intentionally transmits HIV to someone else. Adding additional laws around HIV disclosure, especially when no transmission occurs, ends up causing more harm than good. Stigma rises. Fewer people disclose. Third parties use the laws to lash out."

That's exactly what you would like, STATUS: a third partner who hopes to use an unjust law to lash out at her soon-to-be ex-husband. And while you have cause to be angry (serial adulterous much), you don't have grounds to destroy your husband's life. And you can't rationalize your plan based on the "danger" your husband presented to the other woman. Your husband is taking his meds and has an undetectable viral load. That means he's effectively noninfectious. So even if he didn't use condoms with this woman — and you don't even know for sure if he was fucking her (and he'd be a fool to admit to you that he was) — he didn't put her at risk of acquiring HIV.

"There's a great organization called SERO (SeroProject.com) fighting these laws," said Staley. "Their website is filled with frightening cases of people with HIV getting in jail for supposed nondisclosure, even when no transmission occurred. There are no similar restrictions for nondisclosure of hepatitis C, HPV, syphilis, herpes, etc., some of which can kill. People with HIV are being singled out by legislatures trying to 'protect' the public from 'AIDS monsters' created by local TV stations looking for ratings."

Follow Peter Staley on Twitter @PeterStaley and on Facebook at facebook.com/Peter.Staley.

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